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## GENERAL NOTES.

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*Planetary Nebula with Variable Nucleus.*—Professor BARNARD some years ago suspected a variation of the brightness of the nucleus of the planetary nebula N. G. C. 7662. In *Monthly Notices R. A. S.*, April, 1908, he gives the observational evidence, mostly secured by himself in the last ten years with the 40-inch telescope, from which he finds a variation of three or four magnitudes and a period of about twenty-eight days. The nucleus is faint—near the limit of the great refractor—except for a few days of the four weeks, when it appears like a bright yellowish star of about the twelfth magnitude. Professor BARNARD finds confirmation of the variability from his own photographs in 1899 and 1900, and from early observations with the Rosse telescope and LASSELL's four-foot reflector.

Professor TURNER (*loc. cit.*) finds that the data are fairly well satisfied by the period  $27\frac{1}{3}$  days.

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Professor KAPTEYN has been elected an honorary member of the Royal Irish Academy.

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The 7-inch Reinfelder-and-Hertel refractor of the Manora Observatory, Istria, Austria, is being offered for sale. Unusually good performance is reported for this instrument.

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There seems little doubt that the faint object discovered by Mr. P. MELOTTE on Greenwich Observatory photographs in the region of *Jupiter* is a new satellite (VIII), with retrograde motion, and distance from *Jupiter* of about 20,000,000 miles.—*The Observatory*, May, 1908.

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Mr. J. EWEN, of Edinburgh, has constructed a highly reflecting model of *Saturn* and his rings, which, when illuminated by a strong light in the plane of the rings, shows two tiny luminous knots on either side of the ball. Spinning the model causes the knots to shift inward, the shift increasing with the speed of rotation.—*The Observatory*, April, 1908.

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M. P. VINCART, of Antwerp, can, with the naked eye, count thirteen of the *Pleiades* stars, and see *Jupiter's* third satellite at opposition.—*Journal B. A. A.*, from *Nature* of March 19, 1908.

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The Paris Academy of Sciences has appointed a committee to consider the feasibility of sending a signal at midnight each night from the wireless telegraph station on Eiffel Tower, to aid navigators at sea in determining their longitude.—*Science*.

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The Rumford Committee of the American Academy has made a grant of one hundred dollars to Professor JOEL STEBBINS, of the University of Illinois, for his investigation on the use of selenium in photometry.—*Science*.

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*Notes from "Science."*—The directorship of the Toulouse Observatory, vacant by the appointment of M. BAILLAUD to the National Observatory, has been filled by the election of M. E. COSSERAT.

M. H. DESLANDRES, who since 1897 has been assistant director of the observatory at Meudon, has been appointed director to succeed the late Dr. JANSSEN.

Professor H. POINCARÉ, professor of astronomy in the Paris Ecole Polytechnique, has retired with the title of honorary professor.

M. MAURICE HAMY, of the Paris Observatory, succeeds the late Dr. JANSSEN as a member of the Paris Academy of Sciences.

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Director EDWIN B. FROST, of the Yerkes Observatory, University of Chicago, has been elected a member of the National Academy of Science, and Dr. HUGO RITTER VON SEELIGER, professor of astronomy in the University of Munich, has been elected a foreign associate by the same institution.

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*The Allegheny Observatory.*—After a period of construction extending over a number of years the Allegheny Observatory, in its new location, is again making valuable contribution to the science of astronomy. Five parts of Volume I, *Publica-*

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*tions of the Allegheny Observatory*, have recently been issued under the following titles:—

- No. 1. "On the Distortion of Photographic Films."
- No. 2. "A Simple Method for Reducing Spectrograms."
- No. 3. "The Orbit of  $\alpha$  *Andromedæ*."
- No. 4. "The Radial Velocity of  $\epsilon$  *Ursæ Majoris*."
- No. 5. "The Orbit of *Algol* from Observations made in 1906 and 1907."

The authors of these investigations are Dr. FRANK SCHLESINGER (Director), Dr. R. H. CURTISS, and Mr. R. H. BAKER.

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Volume I, No. 1 (April, 1908), of the *Astronomical Herald*, published by the Astronomical Society of Japan, was received recently. The title and table of contents are printed in English, but all of the text is in Oriental characters.

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